

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CANBER 00626 250649Z POSS DUPE
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 SNM-05 AID-05 AGRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00
TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 /064 W
-----129491 251908Z /70

R 250551Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2246
INFO DEA HQS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL PERTH POUCH
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL PERTH POUCH
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 0626

DEPARTMENT FOR S/NM-M. FALCO
BANGKOK FOR RD ADDARIO
JAKARTA FOR SAIC SHOAF
KUALA LUMPUR FOR SAIC POWERS
MANILA FOR SAIC GREENE
SINGAPORE FOR SAIC BROWN

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SNAR AS
SUBJECT: GOA NEW INITIATIVES TO COUNTER DRUG TRAFFICKING

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. FOLLOWING BASED ON PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED ON JANUARY 24,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CANBER 00626 250649Z POSS DUPE

1978 BY MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, WAL. FIFE.

2. FIFE ANNOUNCED DETAILS OF MAJOR INITIATIVES DECIDED
UPON BY COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT TO CONTAIN TRAFFICKING OF
DRUGS INTO AUSTRALIA. FIFE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT DETERMINED
TO STAMP DOWN AS HARD AS POSSIBLE ON ILLEGAL TRAFFICKERS OF
DRUGS INTO AUSTRALIA.

3. MINISTER ANNOUNCED THAT GOVERNMENT WILL UPGRADE BOTH STATUS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF AUSTRALIAN NARCOTICS BUREAU (ANB), WHICH AS DEPARTMENT AWARE IS CONTAINED WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (DBCA). CREATION OF "IN EXCESS OF" FIFTY NEW POSITIONS IN ANB, WORKING ON DRUG INVESTIGATION AND INTELLIGENCE, IS CURRENTLY BEING PROCESSED BY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD. ANB WILL BE UPGRADED WITHIN PUBLIC SERVICE AND ITS HEAD WILL BE CALLED "COMMISSIONER, FEDERAL BUREAU OF NARCOTICS (FBN)."

4. FIFE SAID GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO ACQUIRE HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT TO INCREASE COMMUNICATIONS AND SURVEILLANCE CAPACITY TO GIVE FBN FACILITIES EQUAL TO BEST FACILITIES OF SIMILAR ENFORCEMENT BODIES ELSEWHERE IN WORLD. EQUIPMENT WILL SUBSTANTIALLY STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENT'S SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY IN REMOTE AREAS OF AUSTRALIA, PARTICULARLY IN NORTH AND WEST.

5. IN ADDITION TO THESE ACTIONS, GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO UPGRADE AIR AND SEA SURVEILLANCE IN NORTH AND WEST TO COUNTER DRUG TRAFFICKING, ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND FISHING. A COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT HEADS (HIGHEST PUBLIC SERVANT IN EACH DEPARTMENT) HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO REPORT MEASURES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE, IN PARTICULAR ON NEED FOR FURTHER AIRCRAFT AND PATROL BOATS.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CANBER 00626 250649Z POSS DUPE

6. FIFE NOTED THAT AMENDMENTS TO CUSTOMS ACT LAST YEAR IMPOSED PENALTIES FOR TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTIC GOODS (OTHER THAN CANNABIS) WITH A MAXIMUM FINE OF DOLS A 100,000 AND/OR 25 YEARS IMPRISONMENT. GOVERNMENT HAS NOW AUTHORIZED MINISTER FOR DBCA TO FURTHER REVIEW LEVEL OF PENALTIES TO SEE WHETHER THESE PENALTIES SHOULD BE FURTHER INCREASED AND TO CONSIDER WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE STATUTORY REQUIREMENT OF MINIMUM PENALTIES. REGARDLESS OF FOREGOING REVIEW, HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO EXTEND PROVISIONS OF CUSTOMS ACT SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR FORFEITURE OF BANK AND SIMILAR ACCOUNTS AND REAL ESTATE ACQUIRED FROM PROCEEDS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING.

7. CUSTOMS ACT WILL ALSO BE AMENDED IN A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL ASPECTS.

A. OFFENSES UNDER ACT WILL BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE A SPECIFIC OFFENSE OF CONSPIRACY, AND TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING PROVISIONS RELATING TO ATTEMPTS. AMENDMENTS DESIGNED ALLOW GOVERNMENT ATTACK LEADING ORGANIZERS AND FINANCIERS.

B. ACT WILL SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZE USE OF LISTENING DEVICES BY CUSTOMS OFFICERS INVESTIGATING DRUG OFFENSES,

WITH SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF MINISTER. (SIMILAR LEGISLATION
ALREADY EXISTS IN NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA, QUEENSLAND
AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA.)

8. GOVERNMENT LEGAL ADVISORS ALSO BEING DIRECTED TO EXPLORE
QUESTION OF PROVIDING WITNESSES WITH LEGAL INDEMNITIES
AGAINST PROSECUTION AT AN EARLIER STAGE AS AN INCENTIVE FOR
SUCH PERSONS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION IN INVESTIGATIONS AND
TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN PROSECUTIONS AGAINST MAJOR DRUG
OFFENDERS.

9. FIFE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED MINISTER
FOR HEALTH AND MINISTER FOR EDUCATION TO MAKE URGENT STUDY
ON HOW COMMONWEALTH CAN MAKE MORE USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 CANBER 00626 250649Z POSS DUPE

DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY. COMMON-
WEALTH HAS BEEN FUNDING PROGRAMS FOR EIGHT YEARS AND IN
CURRENT FISCAL YEAR HAS ALLOCATED A DOLS 800,000 TO STATE
GOVERNMENTS.

10. FINALLY, FIFE ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL BE LEAVING LATER
THIS WEEK ON A STUDY TOUR OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE WILL VISIT SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA,
THAILAND AND HONG KONG AND WILL HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH
MINISTERS AND TOP ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS IN THOSE COUNTRIES.
END UNCLASSIFIED
BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

11. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH FOREGOING NEW PROGRAMS AND
INITIATIVES HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN IN THE WORKS FOR MANY
MONTHS, THEIR SUDDEN ANNOUNCEMENT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN
PRECIPITATED BY SENSATIONAL PRESS COVERAGE OF ILLEGAL
FLIGHT, AERIAL INTERCEPTION BY RAAF, CRASH AND SUBSEQUENT
ARREST OF ESCAPED DRUG TRAFFICKER (FROM BALI PRISON IN
1977) DONALD ROY TAIT AND THREE OTHERS. EMBASSY SEEKING
OBTAIN FULL DETAILS FROM ANB(FBN) BUT IN VIEW CONFUSION
CAUSED BY INTERCEPTION, CRASH AND SUBSEQUENT ARREST OF TAIT
AND MINISTERIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, ANB OFFICIALS UNDERSTANDABLY
VERY MUCH OCCUPIED OTHER MATTERS.

12. FOR BANGKOK RD ADDARIO: IF YOU INDEED STILL PLANNING
VISIT CANBERRA, EMBASSY WOULD SUGGEST YOU WAIT A MONTH OR
TWO IN ORDER LET ANB(FBN) HAVE CHANCE EXPERIENCE SHAKEDOWN
OF ITS NEW STRUCTURE AND EXPANDED FUNCTIONS. END COMMENT.
ALSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUGS, POLICIES, DRUG TRAFFIC, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER00626
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780037-0834
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780126/aaaaavit.tel
Line Count: 166
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 60d3a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3719012
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOA NEW INITIATIVES TO COUNTER DRUG TRAFFICKING BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: SNAR, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/60d3a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014